

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE **DATE:** 2017 September 21

FROM: DIRECTOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES **FILE:** 2410 20

SUBJECT: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE 2017-19 WORKPLAN

PURPOSE: To provide an update on implementation of the Public Safety Committee's 2015-17 Workplan, and to propose a Workplan for 2017-19.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** The Committee request Council to endorse its proposed 2017-19 Workplan, *attached as Appendix 1.*

REPORT**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Public Safety Committee (PSC) collaborates with the Burnaby RCMP, Burnaby Fire Department and the Engineering and Planning Departments to implement and promote public safety programs and initiatives while providing an opportunity for the public to have input into community safety priorities.

The PSC has been traditionally guided by a Workplan. At its 2017 April 11 and May 2 meetings, the PSC reviewed a summary of activities and initiatives contained in the 2015-17 PSC Workplan and provided input into the development of the 2017-19 Workplan.

The Workplan provides a framework for the Committee to:

- support public safety and crime prevention initiatives of the RCMP, Fire Department and the City in general;
- be engaged in identifying community safety priorities; and
- participate in activities and initiatives to address priorities.

This report outlines progress with implementation of the 2015-17 Workplan and proposes a 2017-19 workplan prepared by the Committee. The proposed 2017-19 Workplan consists of four key actions.

2.0 PROGRESS ON THE 2015-17 WORKPLAN

During 2015-17, the Public Safety Committee provided input into the development of public safety initiatives through the procedural means of regular Committee meetings, participation in the RCMP annual performance review, and through reports submitted by the Community Policing Advisory Committees (CPACs) from each community policing district.

The Public Safety Committee's 2015-17 Workplan focused on the following five topics:

- Revision and implementation of the Business Watch Program;
- Continued expansion of the Committee's external communications/public education plan;
- Monitoring of the RCMP Mental Health Intervention Program;
- Promotion of increased traffic enforcement and pedestrian safety in school zones; and,
- Promotion of a Cell Watch (distracted driving) program to promote awareness of the dangers of distracted driving.

Progress on each topic is described below.

2.1 Business Watch Program

Action: *Work with the RCMP to revise the Business Watch Program.*

The Business Watch program encourages business owners/operators to watch out for other businesses near them and to call 911 when suspicious activity is observed. It aims to increase communications between the police and the business community, reduce calls for service through crime prevention, and promote a safer working environment.

The Burnaby Business Watch Program was re-launched in September 2015 as a web-based platform. Information is posted on the City's website including crime trend maps, crime alerts, and information on upcoming safety seminars and workshops. Businesses can sign-up to the City website to receive monthly e-newsletters, event reminder emails and crime prevention tips. The Crime Prevention Unit worked with the Burnaby Board of Trade and local business improvement areas to develop the program.

2.2 Communications/Public Education

Action: *Continue to extend the Committee's external communications/public education plan.*

The 2015-17 Workplan action involves continuing to disseminate community safety and crime prevention information through a variety of channels including social media, delivering community presentations on topics of interest, working with partners to help distribute community policing and crime prevention information, and developing user-friendly educational materials.

In 2015-17, the Crime Prevention Unit actively distributed community safety and security information through a variety of mediums including, but not limited to, the following:

- Tweets from @burnabyrcmp;
- Regular seminars and workshops held under the successful Safe Community Series of presentations;
- Digital Tips, an electronic newsletter;
- Neighbourhood crime alerts in response to emerging crime issues;
- Monthly Crime Reduction Bulletins; and
- A wide selection of communications materials including pamphlets, wallet cards and other educational items which are distributed widely in the community.

The PSC's Communications Subcommittee also assisted in communication initiatives. During 2015-17, it continued to meet quarterly to prepare community safety and crime prevention articles for the City's quarterly newsletter InfoBurnaby. It also worked with Burnaby South students on a pilot project to prepare videos with public safety messages geared to youth.

2.3 RCMP Mental Health Intervention Program

Action: *Monitor the implementation of the RCMP's Mental Health Intervention Program.*

The Burnaby RCMP implemented a Mental Health Intervention Program in 2012 to develop alternative approaches for interacting with people with mental illness while maintaining community safety. The goal of the program is to reduce repeat calls for service related to people with mental illness and the impacts associated with these calls (e.g. hours and resources used when police escort mental health patients to the hospital).

The program is implemented through the Burnaby RCMP Mental Health Coordinator who provides a coordinated and effective response to police calls for mental health intervention. The Coordinator meets with partner agencies (e.g. Fraser Health Mental Health) on a regular basis. Information is shared between these agencies contributing to a safer environment for all involved. A Burnaby Mental Health nurse attends client residences at least one day per week with the Coordinator. The program has resulted in reduced calls for service.

2.4 Traffic Enforcement and Pedestrian Safety in School Zones

Action: *Work with the RCMP and Speed Watch program to promote increased traffic enforcement and pedestrian safety in school zones.*

The Speed Watch program is a partnership between community policing volunteers, the Burnaby RCMP and ICBC that aims to reduce speed-related crashes. Speed Watch volunteers use portable radar and an electronic display board to monitor speeds in neighbourhoods, particularly around schools and playgrounds. The display boards tell drivers the speed at which they are travelling as they pass. Experience has shown that drivers who are exceeding the speed limit slow down when they see a speed-reader board.

In 2016, Burnaby RCMP Community Policing volunteers provided over 86,000 hours of service delivering high visibility Speed Watch deployments throughout Burnaby. In support of these operations, ICBC provided the Community Police Offices with an additional Speed Watch reader board. The Community Police Offices will also be assuming the use of an additional volunteer vehicle to increase volunteer capacity.

The Burnaby RCMP Community Programs and Traffic Enforcement sections have also conducted several outreach and educational events at different locations throughout the community over the last two years.

2.5 Cell Watch (Distracted Driving) Program

Action: *Work with the RCMP, ICBC, City representatives and community policing volunteers to implement a Cell Watch program to promote awareness of the dangers of distracted driving.*

Similar to the Speed Watch program, ICBC has launched a Cell Watch program aimed at reducing distracted driving. Community policing volunteers work with the RCMP and ICBC to set up "leave the phone alone" sandwich boards and conduct road-side surveys observing drivers and their behaviours. Information is used to help the police and ICBC to better understand the issue at a local level and to develop initiatives to reduce distracted driving.

Since 2015, all four Community Police offices in Burnaby have robust Cell Watch programs involving specially trained Cell Watch volunteers. The Burnaby RCMP engages in community road safety events through ICBC designated distracted driving months and regular communications regarding safe driving practices and the dangers of distracted driving. The PSC's communications subcommittee also included information on the dangers of distracted driving in the safety articles published in InfoBurnaby.

3.0 PROPOSED 2017-19 WORKPLAN

At its 2017 April and May meetings, the Public Safety Committee reviewed the 2015-17 Workplan and discussed potential actions for the new Workplan. In their discussions, Committee members considered the Burnaby RCMP's Annual Performance Plan (APP) priorities for the coming year, as determined by the RCMP in a community consultation process on 2017 April 20. Of the APP priorities, the Committee determined it would focus on road safety, drugs and property crime. The Committee also considered potential fire prevention actions.

The actions proposed for the 2017-19 Workplan are outlined below. Further details, including tasks associated with each action, can be found in the proposed 2017-19 Workplan provided in **Appendix 1, attached.**

Actions:

Action #1: Work with the RCMP, City staff, ICBC and the School District to promote road safety for pedestrians and drivers.

- The PSC will work with partners to promote road safety for pedestrians and drivers through awareness initiatives such as Speed Watch and Cell Watch (distracted driving) and promotion and distribution of communications materials that focus on the dangers of distracted driving and walking (e.g. texting while walking). The PSC will explore working with Burnaby secondary school students to develop safety messages geared to their peers.

Action #2: Monitor the Federal process to legalize marijuana and potential impacts on policing and City bylaws.

- The PSC will seek updates from the RCMP and City staff on the Federal government's legalization of marijuana process and information on any potential impacts at the local level.

Action #3: Continue to support ongoing community policing initiatives to prevent property crime.

- The PSC will work with the RCMP, City staff, Community Policing volunteers and community partners to support crime prevention programs such as Citizens Crime Watch, Crime-Free Multi-Housing and Block Watch. The PSC will support ongoing efforts to disseminate community safety and crime prevention information through different channels including social media, delivering community presentations on topics of interest, and working with partners to help distribute community policing and crime prevention information.

Action #4: Work with the Fire Department to increase the use of smoke detectors by all Burnaby residents.

- The PSC will support the Burnaby Fire Department in its work to ensure all Burnaby households have a working smoke detector. In the near term, the Fire Department will focus on households that have the highest risk (e.g. households with at least one young child, an older adult, or a person with a disability, and rental housing areas).

In addition to the four actions above, the Committee will continue to act on its objective to provide input into the development of police service strategies through the procedural means of regular Committee meetings and the discussion of RCMP and district CPAC reports. This input is intended to support the continuing work of the Burnaby RCMP detachment.

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It is expected that execution of the proposed 2017-19 PSC Workplan can be undertaken with existing staff resources and within existing budgets. Council approval for any strategies developed as a result of the proposed Workplan, and any expenditure associated with those strategies would be sought, as appropriate, through subsequent reports.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The work of the Public Safety Committee (PSC) is guided by a Workplan. This report outlines progress to date with the implementation the Committee's 2015-17 Workplan and proposes a Workplan for 2017-19 consisting of four actions.

It is recommended that the Committee request Council to endorse its proposed 2017-19 Workplan, *attached* as **Appendix 1**.



Dave Critchley, Director
PUBLIC SAFETY
AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

MM/sa
Attachment

Copied to: City Manager
Deputy City Manager
Director Engineering
Director Finance
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
City Clerk

**CITY OF BURNABY
PROPOSED PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
2017-19 WORKPLAN**

ACTIONS:

- 1. Work with the RCMP, City staff, ICBC and the School District to promote road safety for pedestrians and drivers.**

Possible Tasks:

- a. Work with the RCMP, ICBC, City staff, the School District and community policing volunteers to promote road safety for drivers and pedestrians through awareness initiatives such as Speed Watch and Cell Watch.
 - b. Work with the RCMP Crime Prevention Unit, ICBC and PSC Communications Subcommittee to promote and disseminate public education materials on road safety issues. Explore methods of disseminating this information through different channels including social media.
 - c. Work with Burnaby secondary school students to develop safety messages geared to their peers.
- 2. Monitor the Federal process to legalize marijuana and potential impacts on policing and City bylaws.**

Possible Tasks:

- a. Request updates on the implementation of the Federal government's process to legalize marijuana.
 - b. Report on potential impacts of the legislation at the local level. Consider lessons learned from other jurisdictions such as Washington and Colorado.
- 3. Continue to support ongoing community policing initiatives to prevent property crime.**

Possible Tasks:

- a. Work with the RCMP, City staff, Community Policing volunteers and community partners to support crime prevention programs such as Citizens Crime Watch, Business Watch and Block Watch.
- b. Continue to disseminate community safety and crime prevention information through different channels including social media and community safety presentations on topics of interest.
- c. Work with community partners to help distribute community safety and crime prevention information.

4. Work with the Fire Department to increase the use of smoke detectors by all Burnaby residents.

Possible Tasks:

- a. Support the Fire Department in an awareness campaign to increase the use of smoke detectors in all Burnaby households. The campaign could include working collaboratively with an industry partner to acquire smoke detectors at a reasonable cost (possibly through a partnership with IAFF Local 323) and initiating a program to check for and install working smoke detectors. In the near term, the Fire Department will focus on households that have the highest risk (e.g. households with at least one young child, an older adult, or a person with a disability, and rental housing areas).